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STAR TREK
THE NEXT GENERATION®
DOCTOR WHO
ASSIMILATION²

The story so far…

The Doctor is an alien, the last of the powerful Time Lords. He is an intrepid traveller through time and space, armed only with his incredible intelligence and his fix-anything sonic screwdriver. He travels alone except for the human companions he befriends, briefly sharing his life with them and showing them the astonishing wonders of the universe.

Space… the Final Frontier. These are the voyages of the *Starship Enterprise*. Its continuing mission: to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no one has gone before.

Federation planet Delta IV has fallen under attack by the Borg, a collective of vastly powerful and feared cyborgs. Strangely, the Borg have been joined by the Cybermen, a similar race of cyborgs previously unknown to this galaxy. Meanwhile, the Doctor and his companions have traveled to 1941 San Francisco, but they soon discover some very unusual inhabitants for that time and place…

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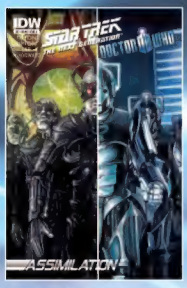

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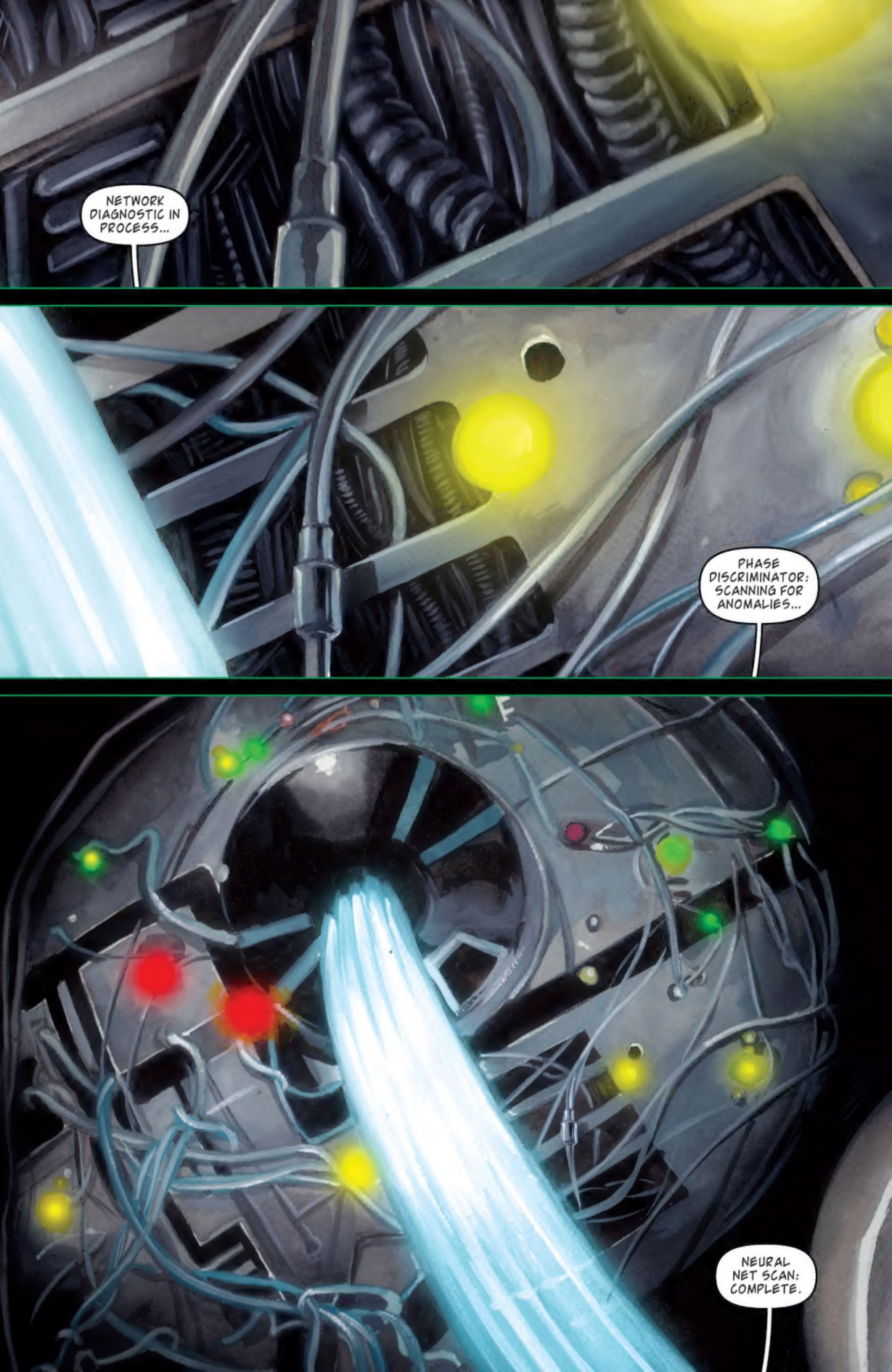

NETWORK DIAGNOSTIC IN PROCESS...
PHASE DISCRIMINATOR: SCANNING FOR ANOMALIES...
NEURAL NET SCAN: COMPLETE.

POSITRONIC DIAGNOSTIC COMPLETE.
YOU'RE ALL SET, DATA. THE ROUTINE SCAN INDICATES NO PROBLEMS AT ALL.
YOU KNOW, DATA, I'VE BEEN THINKING. WHILE DR. SOONG WAS HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE ANYONE IN HIS FIELD WHEN HE CONSTRUCTED YOU, USING PARTS THAT WILL LAST FOR A VERY LONG TIME...
...THAT WAS MORE THAN 30 YEARS AGO, AND THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES SINCE THEN—WITH ADVANCED ISOLINEAR CHIPS, FOR EXAMPLE.
HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED UPGRADING YOURSELF?
I HAVE INDEED CONSIDERED IT, GEORDI. I HAVE DECIDED AGAINST IT, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL IMPLICATIONS. IF I START REPLACING MY COMPONENTS WITH IMPROVED ONES, WHERE WOULD THAT PROCESS END?
EVENTUALLY, WOULD I NO LONGER BE MYSELF? INSTEAD, I HAVE CHOSEN TO REMAIN AS I WAS CREATED.
CONSIDER YOURSELF, GEORDI. YOU HAVE IN THE FORM OF YOUR VISOR WHAT COULD BE CONSIDERED AN IMPROVED COMPONENT. WOULD YOU CONSIDER OTHER SUCH UPGRADES?
HMM. WELL, I DON'T KNOW THAT I'D CALL MY VISOR AN IMPROVEMENT. SURE, IT DOES GIVE ME SOME EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES. BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, I WOULDN'T REALLY WANT TO REPLACE OTHER PARTS OF MY BODY.
IN FACT, I'D RATHER HAVE NORMAL VISION AND NOT EVEN NEED TO WEAR THE THING AT ALL. SO I GUESS I SEE YOUR POINT, DATA.

WE'RE ABOUT TO ARRIVE AT NAIA VII, SIR.
FINE. THIS SHOULD BE NOTHING MORE THAN A ROUTINE STOP-AND-GREET VISIT, NUMBER ONE. THERE'S A PARTICULARLY HARRIED DIVISION OF THE STARFLEET CORPS OF ENGINEERS THERE, AND I THINK THEY MIGHT REQUIRE A LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT, SIR. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE MINING OPERATIONS.
IT'S QUITE AN ACHIEVEMENT. ALTHOUGH, IT'S SAID TO BE A LITTLE DANGEROUS DOWN THERE. KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.
I'LL TAKE DATA AND WORF WITH ME. THOSE TWO SHOULD KEEP ME SAFE ENOUGH.
WELL, MISTER DATA SHOULD CERTAINLY GET THE ATTENTION OF THE ENGINEERS, AT ANY RATE.
SHORTLY...
NOW REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT THE DAI-AI!
YOU SAID THEY WERE FISH PEOPLE.
THEY MAY SEEM AT FIRST TO BE FRIENDLY AND OUTGOING, BUT THEY ARE, IN FACT, RATHER PRIVATE. THEY PREFER TO HAVE LIMITED INTERACTION WITH HUMANS. AND I NEVER SAID "FISH PEOPLE"! I SAID THEY WERE AQUATIC HUMANOIDS. AMPHIBIOUS!
THEY SOUND DELICIOUS.
WORF!
HE DOES HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR, COUNSELOR.
ENERGIZE!

VRMMMMMMMMMMMMM
COMMANDER RIKER! I'M CAPTAIN OCHOA, THIS IS LT. AMATO. WELCOME TO NAIA VII!
THANK YOU. BREATHTAKING! I HAD DONE MY RESEARCH, BUT STILL, WHAT A VIEW!
AND THIS MUST BE THE FAMOUS LT. COMMANDER DATA! I'VE READ ABOUT HIM FOR YEARS IN THE ENGINEERING JOURNALS, BUT NEVER EXPECTED TO ACTUALLY MEET HIM.
CAPTAIN OCHOA—PERHAPS YOU CAN ALSO INTRODUCE US TO YOUR FRIEND?

AH YES. SEELOS, THESE ARE THE VISITORS FROM THE ENTERPRISE. COMMANDER RIKER, LT. COMMANDER DATA, AND LT. WORF.
WELCOME TO NAIA. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING TRADE WITH MY PEOPLE. WE WISH FOR YOU TO HAVE A PLEASANT TIME HERE ON OUR HOME, AND HOPE FOR YOUR SAFE TRAVELS ON YOUR DISTANT JOURNEYS.
ON BEHALF OF THE CREW OF THE ENTERPRISE, THANK YOU. WE ARE HONORED TO MEET YOU.
GOODBYE...?
NOT A VERY TALKATIVE BUNCH, ARE THEY?
THEY DON'T REALLY CARE MUCH ABOUT THE MINING. WE PROVIDE THEM WITH FOOD AND SUPPLIES UNDER OUR AGREEMENT, AND THEY GIVE US LICENSE TO RUN OUR OPERATIONS HERE. THE DAI-AI CAN BE CHARMING ENOUGH, BUT THEY DO VALUE THEIR PRIVACY.

NAIA VII IS A TREASURE TROVE OF TRACE ELEMENTS. DILITHIUM, BILITRIUM, KELBONITE, AND MORE. IT'S ALL HERE. IT'S AMAZING WHAT WE FIND HERE.
THE DIFFICULTY, OF COURSE, IS MINING ON A WATER WORLD.
ONLY THE MOUNTAINTOPS EXTEND ABOVE SEA LEVEL HERE ON NAIA VII. SO WE BUILD THESE MINES TO TUNNEL DOWN INTO THE MOUNTAINS WHERE THE VALUABLE MINERALS AND ELEMENTS CAN BE FOUND. IT'S THE FACT THAT MOST OF THE MOUNTAIN IS UNDER WATER THAT MAKES IT TRICKY.
LET'S HEAD DOWN TO ONE OF THE NEWEST SITES, WHERE THE REAL FUN IS.
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY DON'T WANT ANYONE FIRING ON THEIR PLANET.
PRECISELY.
CAPTAIN, THIS SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF UNNECESSARILY DANGEROUS WORK. SURELY THERE ARE OTHER MINING TECHNOLOGIES USING PARTICLE BEAMS AND TRANSPORTER TECHNOLOGY FROM ORBIT THAT COULD MAKE THIS EASIER.
CERTAINLY. BUT THE DAI-AI HAVE STRICT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTOCOLS THAT WE MUST FOLLOW UNDER THE TERMS OF OUR AGREEMENT. MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS ALLOWED US TO REACH A COMPROMISE THAT PERMITTED OUR OPERATIONS TO PROCEED IN THIS VERY PARTICULAR AND, ADMITTEDLY, WORK-INTENSIVE FASHION.

IT IS A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP. THE DAI-AI ARE WELL COMPENSATED, AND STARFLEET GETS SOME EXTRAORDINARILY RARE MATERIALS THAT WE NEED VERY BADLY. EXTRACTING THEM IN THIS FASHION IS CERTAINLY A TALL ORDER FOR THE ENGINEERING GROUP, THAT'S FOR SURE.
WE'LL TAKE YOU TO THE NEW EASTERN TUNNEL COMPLEX. IT'S OUR NEWEST DIG AT THIS DEPTH.
CAPTAIN, WOULD YOU TELL US MORE OF WHAT PRECAUTIONS YOU TAKE TO MINIMIZE ALL OF THE INHERENT DANGERS DOWN HERE? WATER LEAKAGE, STRUCTURAL COLLAPSES DUE TO PRESSURE...
GOOD QUESTION. WE USE A VARIETY OF FORCE FIELDS, SEALANTS, AND ANTI-GRAV DEVICES. IN FACT, I WAS HOPING TO CONSULT WITH YOU AND YOUR CHIEF ENGINEER TO REVIEW OUR PROCESSES AND SEE IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS.
WE ALSO USE THE TRIED-AND-TRUE SYSTEM OF INTERLOCKING PRESSURE COMPARTMENTS TO TRY TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE IF WE DO HAVE A COLLAPSE OR LEAK.

BUT I'LL BE HONEST WITH YOU, GENTLEMEN. THIS IS VERY DANGEROUS WORK.
ONE OF THE REASONS I REQUESTED A VISIT WAS THAT I WAS HOPING TO GET SOME HIGH-LEVEL TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES HERE. WHEN WE HEARD IT WAS THE *ENTERPRISE* COMING, I WAS SO RELIEVED.
STARFLEET NEEDS THESE MATERIALS BADLY, AND I'M CONCERNED THAT SAFETY ISN'T NECESSARILY THE NO. 1 PRIORITY.
CAPTAIN, I DON'T THINK WE HAD ANY IDEA OF THE DEPTH OF THE CHALLENGES YOUR TEAM IS FACING HERE. I DON'T THINK CAPTAIN PICARD WAS MADE FULLY AWARE OF THIS EITHER. DON'T WORRY, WE'LL DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO HELP YOU OUT HERE.
COMMANDER!
AMATO, PULL THE RELEASE VALVES!
OH, HELL.

KRKKKKKRRRKKKKKKKKT
DATA! WHERE IS COMMANDER RIKER?
I AM LOOKING FOR HIM NOW.

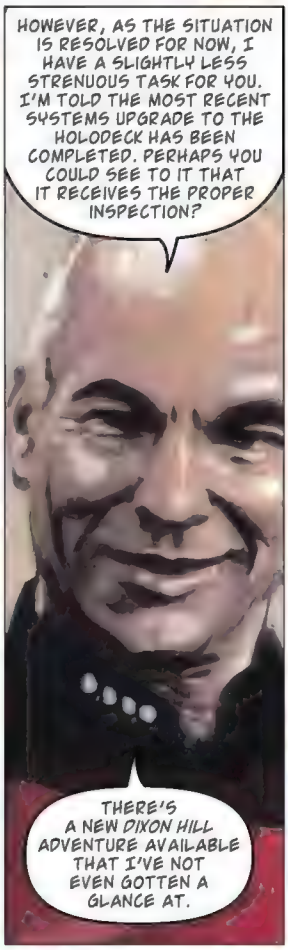
FOUND HIM!
ARE YOU UNHARMED, COMMANDER?
THANKS, DATA. I'M FINE.
WORF, WE NEED TO CONTACT THE ENTERPRISE AND GET SOME HELP DOWN HERE.
TAKEN CARE OF, SIR.
"A MEDICAL TEAM AND AN ENGINEERING TEAM ARE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY."
LET'S GO, PEOPLE!
MR. LAFORGE, I'M HEADING DOWN TO THE SURFACE NOW. PLEASE JOIN ME AFTER YOU COMPLETE YOUR ASSESSMENT.
YES, SIR. I'LL BE DOWN THERE AS QUICKLY AS I CAN.

HOW BAD, DOCTOR?
BAD ENOUGH, CAPTAIN. EIGHT DEAD, 22 INJURED.
I AM SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS, CAPTAIN.
THANK YOU. I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER, THOUGH, WHY YOUR PEOPLE DIDN'T ASSIST WITH THE RESCUE EFFORTS.
MANY OF THEM WERE SEEN IN THE WATERS NEARBY ONLY MINUTES AFTER THE COLLAPSE, I'M TOLD.
I DON'T THINK I NEED TO REMIND YOU, CAPTAIN, OF THE TERMS OF OUR AGREEMENT WITH STARFLEET. WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN RISKING OUR LIVES IN ANY WAY OVER YOUR DESIRE FOR OUR UNUSUAL ROCKS. WOULD YOU PREFER THAT WE OPT OUT OF OUR CONTRACT?
NO, NO. VERY WELL. I UNDERSTAND.
CAPTAIN, WHY DO WE PUT UP WITH THIS? THESE ARE OUR PARTNERS?
IT'S A... COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP, LIEUTENANT. YOUR REPORT ON THE CAUSES OF THE COLLAPSE?
I ALMOST COULDN'T BELIEVE IT, CAPTAIN. THE SAFETY PROTOCOLS HERE ARE REMARKABLY LOW. IT'S NO WONDER THEY HAVE ACCIDENTS. BUT THAT'S NOT OCHOA'S FAULT. STARFLEET HAS GIVEN HIM SPECIFIC ORDERS TO MEET REGULAR QUOTAS, AND HAS SPECIFICALLY ORDERED HIM TO MAINTAIN THOSE QUOTAS, IN SPITE OF THE RISKS.
I DIDN'T FIND OUT THE RISKS INVOLVED UNTIL YOU GRANTED ME HIGHER CLEARANCE TO INVESTIGATE. THIS WHOLE OPERATION IS PARTIALLY CLASSIFIED.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHY ARE WE PUTTING THESE PERSONNEL AT SUCH RISK?
THE BORG, LIEUTENANT. WE LOST SO MUCH OF THE FLEET AT WOLF 359. WE'RE TRYING TO REBUILD OUR FORCES AND PREPARE FOR THEIR INEVITABLE RETURN. WE NEED EVERY SCRAP OF RAW MATERIAL WE CAN GET OUR HANDS ON TO MAXIMIZE OUR DEFENSES.
IN SOME CASES, HARD CHOICES HAVE BEEN MADE TO DO WHATEVER WE MUST TO PREPARE. THE SACRIFICES OF THESE ENGINEERS MAY VERY WELL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE FOR THE FEDERATION.

AFTER YOU GET CLEANED UP, I'D LIKE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE SITUATION, NUMBER ONE. MY READY ROOM IN ONE HOUR. MISTER DATA, DOCTOR—I'D LIKE YOU THERE AS WELL.
AYE, SIR.

SHORTLY...
AND SO ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO MAKE SURE CAPTAIN OCHOA WILL BE GETTING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND RESOURCES?
IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF ABILITY, CAPTAIN. THOSE PEOPLE ARE STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT.
ABSOLUTELY. I'VE RECEIVED WORD THAT THE *LEXINGTON* WILL BE ARRIVING SOON WITH ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND A FULL TASK FORCE OF ENGINEERS. THE RESOURCES TO BE GAINED THERE ARE VITAL.

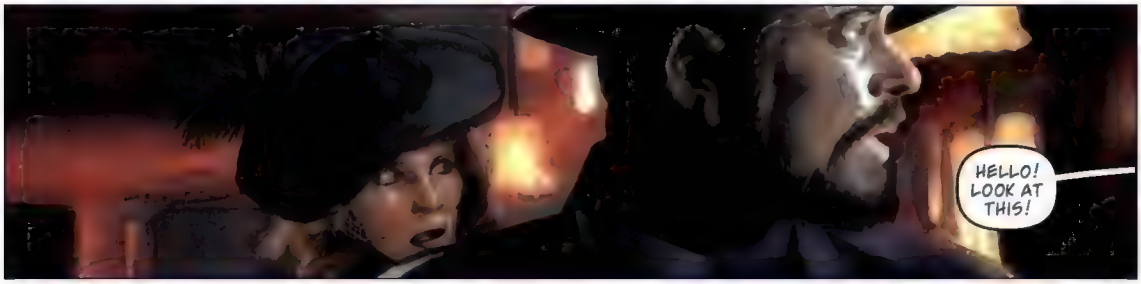
HE'LL BE VERY HAPPY TO HEAR THAT. THE SITUATION DOWN THERE CERTAINLY REQUIRED MORE THAN JUST A PEP TALK.
AGREED, NUMBER ONE. I ADMIT I HAD NO IDEA THE CONDITIONS HAD GROWN SO DIRE. I'M GRATEFUL YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.


HOWEVER, AS THE SITUATION IS RESOLVED FOR NOW, I HAVE A SLIGHTLY LESS STRENUOUS TASK FOR YOU. I'M TOLD THE MOST RECENT SYSTEMS UPGRADE TO THE HOLODECK HAS BEEN COMPLETED. PERHAPS YOU COULD SEE TO IT THAT IT RECEIVES THE PROPER INSPECTION?
THERE'S A NEW *DIXON HILL* ADVENTURE AVAILABLE THAT I'VE NOT EVEN GOTTEN A GLANCE AT.

WHAT DO YOU SAY, DOCTOR? MISTER DATA? CARE TO JOIN ME?

COMPUTER, BEGIN PROGRAM "PICARD DIXON HILL SEVEN."
PROGRAM BEGIN. ENTER WHEN READY.
VERY NICE.
IS THAT THE OCEAN I SMELL? THAT'S NEW.
INDEED. DETECTING OLFACTORY TRACES OF SEAWATER, CARBON MONOXIDE EXHAUST, AND... SOURDOUGH BREAD. VERY THOROUGH.
YOU JUST SAID THE MAGIC WORD, MISTER DATA. "BREAD." I'M FAMISHED. LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T FIND A RESTAURANT AROUND HERE.
YOU HEAR THAT?
SOUNDS LIKE ALL THE BUGS AREN'T QUITE WORKED OUT OF THE UPGRADE YET. REMIND ME TO MENTION IT TO GEORDI.
VWORP
VWORP
VWORP
VWORP

...AND A GIN AND TONIC FOR THE LADY, PLEASE.
COMIN' UP, PALLY.


HELLO! LOOK AT THIS!

AN ANDROID! A POSITIVELY SPLENDID ANDROID!

WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN HERE, A POSITRONIC BRAIN? THOSE CAN BE TRICKY TO UNTANGLE, NEED LOTS OF ARTIFICIAL SYNAPSE JUMPING. LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT IT RUNNING VERY SMOOTHLY.
CURIOUS...
UM...

DOCTOR, YOU'RE BEING RUDE!
TOP-NOTCH WORKMANSHIP, I HAVE TO SAY. DID YOU BUILD HIM YOURSELF?
PLEASE LET GO OF MY HEAD.

SIMULATION? YOU MEAN WE'RE NOT IN SAN FRANCISCO AT ALL?

I SHOULD HAVE NOTICED WHEN WE FIRST STEPPED OUT—THE SMELLS, THE SOUNDS, THE SIMULATED GRAVITY UNDER OUR FEET... TOO PERFECT. REALITY IS ALWAYS MUCH MESSIER. WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE...

OH GREAT. I KNEW IT WAS TOO SIMPLE FOR US TO BE IN AN ACTUAL, REAL PLACE. WHERE ARE WE REALLY?

CURIOUS, COMMANDER. THE SIMULATIONS APPEAR TO HAVE ACHIEVED SOME LEVEL OF SENTIENCE, OR AT LEAST THE ILLUSION OF SUCH.

INTRIGUING...
POLICE BOX
PLEASED TO MEET YOU. I'M THE DOCTOR. WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO TELL US EXACTLY WHERE WE ARE?
MAYBE WE'D BETTER HAVE A WORD WITH THE CAPTAIN...

THIS IS LT. WORF, OUR CHIEF OF SECURITY. LT. WORF, IF YOU'LL ACCOMPANY OUR... GUESTS TO THE OBSERVATION LOUNGE?
YES, COMMANDER. COME WITH ME!
WELL, YOU'RE A BIG FELLOW, AREN'T YOU? A KLINGON, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN! RELAX, WE'RE ALL EXTREMELY FRIENDLY!

DOCTOR, WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE ARE WE?
I'M NOT QUITE SURE YET, POND. THIS IS ALL VERY STRANGE. STILL PIECING IT TOGETHER.
WHEREVER WE ARE, ONE THING'S CERTAIN: WE'RE DEFINITELY NOT WHERE WE WERE, AND THE SITUATION IS CHANGING RAPIDLY.
WHAT?

I SEEM TO BE REMEMBERING THINGS THAT HAVE NEVER HAPPENED TO ME.
WHAT?!
WELL, UNTIL I GOT A GLIMPSE OF OUR TALL FRIEND THERE...

...I HAD NEVER EVEN HEARD THE WORD "KLINGON" BEFORE...

LOOK AT THE WINDOWS. WE'RE IN SPACE.
YOU SEE THAT, DOCTOR? THEY HAVE WINDOWS IN THEIR SHIP AND EVERYTHING.
HUSH, POND. WE'RE GUESTS HERE.
MISTER WORF! REPORT!

CAPTAIN, THESE ARE THE... VISITORS COMMANDER RIKER DISCOVERED IN THE HOLODECK.

SO I'M TOLD. WE VERY SELDOM RECEIVE UNANNOUNCED VISITORS IN THE HOLODECK, MUCH LESS ONES WHO PARK THEIR TELEPHONE BOXES THERE. I'M JEAN-LUC PICARD, CAPTAIN OF THE ENTERPRISE.

I MUST ASK YOU, HOWEVER, WHO ARE YOU, AND WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU DOING ON OUR SHIP?

WHO, US? NOBODY, REALLY. JUST DOING A LITTLE TRAVELING. THIS IS AMY, AND HER HUSBAND RORY, AND I'M THE DOCTOR.
HI.
HULLO.

DOCTOR? DOCTOR OF?
JUST THE DOCTOR.
VERY WELL, THEN, "DOCTOR." A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

DEANNA, ARE YOU GETTING ANYTHING FROM THEM? DECEPTION, INTENTION, ANYTHING YOU CAN TELL US?
NO ATTEMPT TO DECEIVE AT ALL, WILL. FROM HIS YOUNG FRIENDS I SENSE A NERVOUSNESS, BUT AN ABSOLUTE TRUST IN THEIR COMPANION.
AND FROM THIS "DOCTOR"?

IT'S LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER SENSED BEFORE. THERE'S A WISDOM, MUCH BEYOND HIS YEARS. AND A SADNESS. GREAT SADNESS. BUT NO ILL INTENT. I'M CERTAIN OF IT.

WE SHOULDN'T BE HERE, REALLY. OR YOU SHOULDN'T. ARE WE THE FIRST, THOUGH? HMM...
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'VE HAD ANY OTHER UNEXPLAINED VISITORS LATELY?
NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF. OF COURSE, IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW YOU DEFINE—

—"UNEXPLAINED."
BREE DEET
BRIDGE TO CAPTAIN! RECEIVING A DISTRESS SIGNAL, PRIORITY ONE. AUDIO ONLY.
PUT IT THROUGH, MISTER DATA.

-XXXXX- HELP US! MASSIVE ATTACK FROM -XXXXXXXXX- THE LASSITER IS ALREADY GONE! REPEAT, THIS IS COMMAND CONTROL ON DELTA IV REQUESTING -XXXXX-

THE DELTAN HOME WORLD. IT'S DENSELY POPULATED, BUT HAS NO REAL STRATEGIC VALUE. WHAT COULD THIS BE ABOUT?
I DON'T KNOW, NUMBER ONE. MISTER DATA? BEST SPEED TO DELTA IV?

WARP 9 WILL TAKE US THERE IN APPROXIMATELY 37 MINUTES, CAPTAIN.
MAKE IT SO, MISTER DATA.

IS THIS YOUR DOING, DOCTOR? YOUR ARRIVAL IS CONVENIENTLY TIMED, AFTER ALL!
ME? I'VE NEVER HEARD OF DELTA IV! WHICH, CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT I KNOW EVERY PLANET OF EVERY STAR SYSTEM, IS JUST A TINY BIT CONCERNING! AS FOR CONVENIENTLY TIMED, THAT COULD BE MY MIDDLE NAME!

INDEED. LT. WORF, KEEP AN EYE ON OUR GUESTS UNTIL WE ARRIVE AT DELTA IV.

"APPROACHING THE DELTA SYSTEM, CAPTAIN."
VERY NICE, VERY IMPRESSIVE. ROOMY. I LIKE ROOMY. I LIKE THE LINES. VERY NICE USE OF SPACE.
WILL YOU PLEASE STOP TALKING!
SENSORS INDICATING A LARGE GATHERING OF VESSELS IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF DELTA IV.
LARGE? DEFINE "LARGE."
STILL CALIBRATING, SIR.
NOW WITHIN RANGE FOR VISUAL SENSOR TRANSMISSIONS, SIR.
ON SCREEN, MISTER DATA.
NO...

"THE CYBERMEN?!"
"THE BORG?!"
WE SHOULDN'T BE HERE, CAPTAIN.
I BELIEVE YOU'RE RIGHT...
TO BE CONTINUED!